Dewan's reply.—The appointment of a Mahomedan Inspector of Schools has been under the consideration of Government. The delay is due to the fact that a suitable Mahomedan gentleman with the requisite qualifications and experience of Mahomedan schools has not been found yet.

As for the entertainment of Mahomedans in the Public Service, there are at present 473 Mahomedans in the service, including 67 Mahomedans employed in the Education Department.

The other suggestions will receive consideration.

149. Social disabilities of Ezhavas.

Mr. K. M. Krishnan (Member, Nominated) objected to the observance of *theendal* and of the disabilities which followed it and requested that a proclamation be issued announcing the total abolition of *theendal*. His next prayer was that sign boards prohibiting the *theendal* castes from using certain roads and lanes should be removed. In regard to the admission to schools, there were some still, which ought to be thrown open to all classes of His Highness' subjects.

In conclusion, the Member prayed that Government orders in regard to the employment of members of his community in the Public Service should be enforced and that quarterly returns of such appointments be called for from the Heads of Departments.

Dewan's reply.—The number of Ezhavas in the State Service is 476, of whom 24 are in the Excise Department, 33 in the Police, 202 in the Educational and 27 in the Medical Departments. The policy of Government is to employ Ezhavas freely provided they are qualified under the rules. The requests of the Member are noted.

150. Social disabilities of the depressed classes.

Mr. Kurumban Daivathan (Member, Nominated) brought to notice the social disabilities of the depressed classes, and submitted that they could not use the roads except on pain of ill-treatment at the hands of other communities. Their children could not get admission into schools without the assistance of the Police. They could not approach hospitals, temples or other institutions. Their grievances could not be represented in person to the higher officers. The Government should, therefore, step in and remove their disabilities. The Member prayed that a Committee of enlightened Hindu gentlemen should be appointed to do the work of enlisting the sympathy of the people at large towards the uplift of the depressed classes. He also submitted that the Pulayas and Parayas and some other backward classes were not on the same level with the Jews and Mahomedans whose material condition was considerably better and that a more liberal policy should be shown towards the former in the matter of fee concession and scholarships.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

151. Need for a special enactment to safeguard the welfare of Parayas.

Mr. Kandan Kumaran (Member, Nominated) requested that, if separate legislation was not possible, special steps should be taken to raise the Parayas from their depressed condition. They were grateful for the encouragement given of late in the matter of education. The Member then requested that, as there were no departmental or private schools in Kalluppara and its neighbourhood where a large portion of Parayas and Pulayas lived, the Government be pleased to start a school which would be of use to Mahomedans also.

He also represented that they suffered much at the hands of the subordinate staff. They were not being allowed to attend courts and public offices.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly